

IN HONOR OF ROD HSIAO

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rod Hsiao as he leaves the San Mateo County Board of Education after 14 years of service to the public. Rod is an outstanding public servant and he will be missed by those who follow his work on the board.

Rod Hsiao strongly supports inclusivity. While working in Washington, D.C., he co-founded CAPAL, a 31-year-old nonprofit for students interested in public policy. He is the founder of nonprofit InPlay which combats the loss of educational progress that occurs amongst children during the summer break. InPlay provides a single point where parents can go to sign up children for free or low-cost summer education and recreational activities. He worked with the U.S. Small Business Administration's Council on Underserved Communities and has served on the boards of various nonprofits. He was the co-founder of a local group encouraging Asian and Pacific Islanders to participate in elective office.

The county board of education hears appeals from parents denied inter-district transfers by their district of residence. These are emotional moments when parents are hoping to have their children attend a different school. Rod asks probing questions to determine if there is any legal rationale for the transfer to be granted. He looks to the best interests of students and works hard to balance the interests of the home district with the student's needs.

Granting a charter to a proposed charter school is one of the more fraught activities of the county board of education. The issue only arises when the district in which the school is proposed to be established has denied the application. Again, Rod seeks to improve public education through many avenues, including charter schools. These choices sometimes generate friction with one or more vocal groups, but he tries to ensure that the underserved communities of San Mateo County have access to the best possible education.

One example of ensuring access to high quality education is the countywide program known as The Big Lift. It is an initiative that grew out of a group in which Rod participated. The goal is to ensure that San Mateo County students are proficient in reading by the third grade. Rod served on the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council and worked with its successor agency as part of a team to design and launch The Big Lift. Although the pandemic has created obstacles, the program remains strong.

Jones Gulch is the beloved outdoor education program offered by the San Mateo County Office of Education, operating for generations. It's been said that, in some instances, students arrive with their grandmothers who once went to Jones Gulch back when the grandmother was a middle school student. The camp is owned by the YMCA and operated in cooperation with the County Office of Education. In recent years, Rod is credited with maintaining the relationship and with strengthening the program by finding ways to do camp upgrades after decades of use. He has pushed hard to build housing at the site so that staff can fulfill their duties with-

out having to sometimes sleep on the floor of the camp office.

Rod is a graduate of Oberlin College with a BA in Economics, and holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard. Aside from his achievements in education, he has also consulted to global companies and founded or worked for nonprofits that promote entrepreneurship and inclusivity.

After nearly a decade and a half in a position of educational leadership, Rod will now be able to spend more time with his wife, Linda, and sons Anthony and Timothy. He has burned the midnight oil on many occasions, and they will likely welcome him home on a more regular schedule. However, I know that Rod Hsiao will also remain active in public affairs in San Mateo County. An advocate is relentless by nature whether or not in elective office. I expect that Rod will remain engaged in creating educational opportunity and in encouraging participation by all segments of San Mateo County. We thank him for years of effort dedicated to building an America of which we may all be proud.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MATTHEW J. BUNKER

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2020*

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and service of Matthew J. Bunker. Matthew grew up in Delavan, Wisconsin and attended Delavan Christian School and Faith Christian School before receiving an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

From an early age, Matthew knew that he wanted to serve America by joining the military. Matthew's dedication and talents were recognized when my predecessor, Congressman Paul Ryan, awarded Matthew an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy. After graduating from West Point, Matthew served with the Army's 1st Cavalry as a Recon Scout at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington.

After his honorable service in the Army, Matthew pursued his lifelong dream of becoming an explorer. Matthew loved the outdoors and adventure. He scaled mountains in the Pacific Northwest, hiked, mountain biked, and photographed those moments along the way.

In addition to being an avid outdoorsman, Matthew was a man of strong faith and moral conviction. Wherever his adventures took him, he kept his family and God in mind. His father said that Matthew only loved two things above the outdoors: his family and God.

Matthew Bunker passed away Friday, June 26, 2020 while descending Mount Rainier on a backcountry hike and ski descent. He was 28 years old. He was known for being smart, caring, having a great sense of humor, and for being a talented photographer, painter, and writer.

My prayers are with his family, especially his mother Carolyn and his father Joe, who is a member of the First Congressional District's Service Academy Nomination Board. May we remember Matthew and his service to our country and to others. May his adventurous spirit, strong faith, and moral conviction be an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2020*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 8, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 6395 and H.R. 8354.

RECOGNIZING WARREN G.  
GRAMMER OF POMONA, ILLINOIS

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2020*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Warren G. Grammer of Pomona, Illinois, in celebration of his upcoming 100th birthday. A World War II veteran and longtime public servant, Warren is a true American patriot and a role model to many Illinoisans.

Warren was born on December 22, 1920. In 1943, Warren was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the 45th Infantry as a rifle combat infantryman and later as a military policeman. During his service, he took part in eight different battles and was awarded the Silver Battle Star and the Bronze Battle Star. His proudest accomplishment, however, was participating in his division's liberation of the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany. When he was honorably discharged in September 1945, Warren returned home to work for the Illinois State Police as a trooper before working as an officer in a juvenile detention center. Retiring as a Jackson County deputy, Warren left a legacy of public service and public safety.

With a dedication to community and country, Warren is a truly part of America's Greatest Generation. His longevity is worthy of recognition, but the work he accomplished in those years is even more important.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Warren Grammer for his incredible milestone. On behalf of Southern Illinois, happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ROBERTO J. SANTOS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2020*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of United Independent School District Superintendent Roberto J. Santos. Mr. Santos will retire after more than 38 years serving the United Independent School District.

Mr. Santos is an individual who committed his life and career to the betterment of his community. Throughout his career in the field of education, he showed a steadfast dedication to every student he served. He also showed strong leadership in how he managed